

## Child Car Seat Checks

Child safety seat fitting stations are located statewide to provide assistance by certified safety seat technicians. No citations are issued at the checks, but parents and caregivers must bring children to ensure seats are fitted properly. To find a child safety seat fitting station near you, go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) and click on the child safety link.

*If interested in the Child Safety Seat Inspection Program, contact The Bluffton Police Department Neighborhood Services Unit.*

**843-706-4550**

## Important Phone Numbers

### **Emergency 911**

Non-Emergency Bluffton Dispatch	757-3499
Dispatch Main Number	524-2777
Social Services	470-4600
Solicitor's Office	255-5880
Child Abuse Prevention	524-4350
Adult/Child Protective Services	525-7861
Bluffton Self Help	757-8000
United Way of the Low Country	982-3040

### Town of Bluffton Departments **20 Bridge Street**

Town Hall Main Number	706-4500
Police Department Main Number	706-4550
Neighborhood Services Unit	706-4550
Bicycle Registration	706-4550
CARE Program	706-4550
Municipal Court	706-4530
Business License	706-4500



# **BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **Child Passenger Safety**

*The Bluffton Police Department  
has developed this brochure to  
provide information to you  
about Child Passenger Safety*

***Bluffton Police Department  
101 Progressive St / P.O. Box 386  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
843-706-4550  
[www.blufftonpolice.com](http://www.blufftonpolice.com)***

***Joey Reynolds  
Chief of Police***

# Child Passenger Safety

## Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- \* Select a car seat based on your child's size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- \* Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- \* To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- \* Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

## Restraint Types

- \* Rear-Facing Car Seat—The best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
- \* Forward-Facing Car Seat— This seat has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
- \* Booster Seat—Positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
- \* Seat Belt—Should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

## Article 47: Child Passenger Restraint System

**Section 56-5-6410.** Child passenger restraint systems; age and weight as basis for required restraining system; standards.

Every driver of a motor vehicle (passenger car, pickup truck, van or recreational vehicle) operated on the highways and streets of this State when transporting a child five years of age or younger upon the public streets and highways of the State must provide an appropriate child passenger restraint system and must secure the child as follows:

- (1) A child from birth up to one year of age or who weighs less than twenty pounds must be properly secured in a rear-facing child safety seat which meets the standards prescribed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- (2) A child who is at least one year of age but less than six years of age and who weighs at least twenty pounds but less than forty pounds must be secured in a forward-facing child safety seat provided in the motor vehicle which meets the standards prescribed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- (3) A child who is at least one year of age but less than six years of age and who weighs at least forty pounds but not more than eighty pounds must be secured by a belt-positioning booster seat. The belt-positioning booster seat must be used with both lap and shoulder belts. A booster seat must not be used with a lap belt alone.

- (4) If a child is at least one year of age but less than six years of age and weighs more than eighty pounds, the child may be restrained in an adult safety belt. If a child less than six years of age can sit with his back straight against the vehicle seat back cushion, with his knees bent over the vehicle's seat edge without slouching, the child may be seated in the regular back seat and secured by an adult safety belt.
- (5) A child who is less than six years of age must not occupy a front passenger seat of a motor vehicle. This restriction does not apply if the motor vehicle does not have rear passenger seats or if all rear passenger seats are occupied by other children less than six years of age.

Any child restraint system of a type sufficient to meet the physical standards prescribed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at the time of its manufacture is sufficient to meet the requirements of this article.